

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as currently pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus comprising:  
an original placement portion on which an original is to be placed;  
an optical unit provided below the original placement portion and configured to move relative to the original placement portion; and

a guide member that guides movement of the optical unit and supports the optical unit from below;

wherein the optical unit includes a unit frame configured to hold an optical element, and includes a slider configured to slide on the guide member, said slider having a screw that is vertically threaded in a screw hole formed in the unit frame and that rides the guide member,

wherein a vertical position of the unit frame relative to the guide member is adjusted in accordance with a rotating amount of the screw, such that the optical element is thereby raised or lowered in order to adjust an imaging parameter of an output image;

wherein a plurality of projecting portions are provided on a root of a thread of the screw along a circumference of the thread, and are provided in an area other than a tip end area of the screw, and

wherein each of the projecting portions of the screw are plastically deformable into a different shape and are plastically deformed while being screwed into the screw hole, and wherein the plastic deformation of the projecting portions of the screw

absorbs play in a mount portion between the screw and the screw hole formed by the unit frame while being plastically deformed.

2. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein play between the screw and the screw hole is substantially eliminated by plastic deformation of the projecting portions of the screw.

3. to 4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the tip end of the screw has an engagement portion with which a rotating tool engages.

6. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the screw is made of a resin material.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a plurality of screws are provided at respective end portions of the optical unit with respect to a direction orthogonal to a moving direction of the optical member respectively.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 1,

further comprising an illuminating unit configured to illuminate the original placement portion,

wherein the optical element is a mirror configured to reflect a reflection light from the original on the original placement portion that is illuminated with the illuminating unit.

11. to 12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus comprising:  
an original illumination member;  
a reflection system configured to reflect light from the original;  
a scanning member configured to move the reflection system;  
a support surface configured to support the scanning member; and  
a plurality of screws configured to be mounted in a plurality of screw holes formed on the scanning member, wherein a head of each of the screws slides in contact with the support surface;

wherein a vertical position of the scanning member relative to the support surface is adjusted in accordance with a rotating amount of the screw, such that an optical

element is thereby raised or lowered in order to adjust an imaging parameter of an output image; and

wherein each of the screws has a plurality of plastically deformable projecting portions on a root of a thread thereof along a circumference of the thread, the projecting portions provided in an area other than a tip end area of the screw, wherein each of the projecting portions of the screw are plastically deformable into a different shape and are plastically deformed while being screwed into the screw hole, wherein the plastic deformation of the projecting portions of the screw absorbs play in a mount portion between the screw and the screw hole, and wherein the projecting portions and the screw hole engage each other in an interference fit in the axial direction of the screw.